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contract, which has rendered them part of the Devil's possession, and contrive how they may obliterate that reproach, and disentangle their mortgaged souls. *Decay of Piety.*
These simple ideas, the understanding can no more refuse to have, or alter, or blot them out, than a mirror can refuse, alter, or obliterate the images, which the objects set before it produce. *Locke.*

OBLETERATION. *n. f.* [obliteratio, Latin.] Effacement; extinction.

Considering the casualties of wars, transigrations, especially that of the general flood, there might probably be an obliteration of all those monuments of antiquity that ages precedent at some time have yielded. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*

OBLYTION. *n. f.* [oblivio, Latin.]

1. Forgetfulness; cessation of remembrance.
Water-drops have worn the stones of Troy,
And blind oblivion swallow'd cities up,
And mighty states characterless are grated
To dusty nothing. *Shaksp. Troil. and Cressida.*
Thou shouldst have heard many things of worthy memory,
which now shall die in oblivion, and thou return unexperienced to thy grave. *Shaksp. Taming of the Shrew.*

Knowledge is made by oblivion, and to purchase a clear and warrantable body of truth, we must forget and part with much we know. *Brown's Vulgar Err. Pref.*

Can they imagine, that God has therefore forgot their sins, because they are not willing to remember them? Or will they measure his pardon by their own oblivion. *South.*

Among our crimes oblivion may be set;
But 'tis our king's perfection to forget. *Dryden.*

2. Amnely; general pardon of crimes in a state.
By the act of oblivion, all offences against the crown, and all particular trespasses between subject and subject, were pardoned, remitted, and utterly extinguished. *Darwin.*

OBLIVIOUS. *adj.* [oblivius, Latin.] Causing forgetfulness.
Raze out the written troubles of the brain,
And with some sweet oblivious antidote
Cleanse the stuff'd bosom. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

The British souls
Exult to see the crowding ghosts descend
Unnumber'd; well aveng'd, they quit the cares
Of mortal life, and drink th' oblivious lake. *Philips.*

Oh born to see what none can see awake!
Behold the wonders of th' oblivious lake. *Pope's Dunciad.*

OBLONG. *adj.* [oblong, Fr. oblongus, Latin.] Longer than
are unequal. *Harr.*

The best figure of a garden I esteem an oblong upon a descent.
Every particle, supposing them globular or not very oblong,
would be above nine million times their own length from any other particle. *Bentley's Sermons.*

OBLONGLY. *adv.* [from oblong.] In an oblong direction.
The surface of the temperate climates is larger than it would have been, had the globe of our earth or of the planets, been either spherical, or oblongly spheroidal. *Cheyne.*

OBLONGNESS. *n. f.* [from oblong.] The state of being oblong.

OBLIQUE. *n. f.* [obliquus, Lat.]

1. Cenforious speech; blame; slander; reproach.
Reasonable moderation hath freed us from being deservedly subject unto that bitter kind of obliquy, whereby as the church of Rome doth, under the colour of love towards those things which be harmless, maintain extremely most hurtful corruptions; so we peradventure might be upbraided, that under colour of hatred towards those things that are corrupt, we are on the other side as extreme, even against most harmless ordinances. *Hickes, b. iv. f. 14.*

Here new aspersions, with new obliquies,
Are laid on old defects. *Daniel's Civil War.*

Canst thou with impious obliquy condemn
The just decree of God, pronounce'd and sworn? *Milton.*

Shall names that made your city the glory of the earth, be mentioned with obliquy and detraction? *Addison.*

Every age might perhaps produce one or two true genius, if they were not sunk under the censure and obliquy of plodding, servile, imitating pedants. *Swift.*

2. Cause of reproach; disgrace. Not proper.
My chastity's the jewel of our house,
Bequeathed down from many ancestors;
Which were the greatest obliquy 'th' world
In me to lose. *Shakespeare's All's well that ends well.*

OBLIVIOUSNESS. *n. f.* [from oblivio, Latin.] Loss of speech.
A vehement fear often produceth obliviousness. *Brown.*

OBNOXIOUS. *n. f.* [obnoxius, Latin.]

1. Subject.
I propound a character of justice in a middle form, between the speculative discourses of philosophers, and the writings of lawyers, which are tied and obnoxious to their particular laws. *Bacon's Holy War.*

2. Liable to punishment.

OBS

All are obnoxious, and this faulty land,
Like fainting Hæber, does before you stand,
Watching your sceptre. *Haller.*

We know ourselves obnoxious to God's severe justice, and that he is a God of mercy and hatred sin; and therefore that we might not have the least suspicion of his unwillingness to forgive, he hath sent his only begotten son into the world, by his dismal sufferings and cursed death, to expiate our offences. *Canning's Sermons.*

Thy name, O Varus, if the kinder power
Preserve our plains, and shield the Mantuan tow'rs,
Obnoxious by Cremona's neighb'ring crime,
The wings of swans, and stronger pinion'd rhyme
Shall raise aloft. *Dryd.*

3. Liable; exposed.
Long hostility had made their friendship weak in itself,
and more obnoxious to jealousies and distrusts. *Hayward.*

But what will not ambition and revenge
Defend to? who aspires, must down as low
As high he soar'd; obnoxious first or last,
To base things. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

To dew obnoxious on the grassy floor.
OBNOXIOUSNESS. *n. f.* [from obnoxius.] Subjection; liability to punishment.

OBNOXIOUSLY. *adv.* [from obnoxius.] In a state of subjection; in the state of one liable to punishment.

To OBNOXULATE. *v. a.* [obnoxilatus, Latin.] To cloud; to obscure.

O'BOLE. *n. f.* [obolus, Lat.] In pharmacy, twelve grains.

OBREPTION. *n. f.* [obreptio, Latin.] The act of creeping out.

To OBROGATE. *v. a.* [obrogo, Lat.] To proclaim a contrary law for the dissolution of the former.

OBSCENE. *adj.* [obscene, Fr. obscenus, Latin.]

1. Immodest; not agreeable to chastity of mind; causing low ideas.
Chemos th' obscene dread of Moab's sons. *Milton.*

Words that were once chaste, by frequent use grow obscene and uncleanly. *Watts's Logic.*

2. Offensive; disgusting.
A girdle foul with grease binds his obscene attire. *Dryden.*

Home as they went, the sad discourse renew'd,
Of the relentless dame to death purld,
And of the fight obscene to lately view'd. *Dryden.*

3. Inauspicious; ill omened.
Care shuns thy walks, as at the cheerful light
The groaning ghosts, and birds obscene take flight. *Dryd.*

It is the sun's late like your's, to be displeasing to ovals and obscene animals, who cannot bear his lustre. *Pope's Lett.*

OBSCENELY. *adv.* [from obscene.] In an impure and unchaste manner.

OBSCENITY. *n. f.* [obscenitas, Fr. from obscene.] Impurity of thought or language; unchastity; lewdness.

Mr. Cowley asserts plainly, that obscenity has no place in wit.

Those fables were tempered with the Italian severity, and free from any note of infamy or obscenity.

Thou art wickedly devout,
In Tiber ducking thrice by break of day,
To wash th' obscenities of night away. *Dryden.*

No pardon vile obscenity should find,
Tho' wit and art conspire to move your mind. *Pope.*

OBSCURATION. *n. f.* [obscuratio, Lat.]

1. The act of darkening.
As to the sun and moon, their obscuration or change of colour happens commonly before the eruption of a fiery mountain. *Barth.*

2. A state of being darkened.
OBSCURE. *adj.* [obscurus, Fr. obscurus, Latin.]

1. Dark; unlightened; gloomy, hindring light.
Who's curst his father or mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness. *Prov. xx. 20.*

Who shall tempt with wand'ring feet
The dark unbottom'd infinite abyss,
And thro' the palpable obscure find out
His uncouth way? *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

2. Living in the dark.
The obscure bird clamour'd the live-long night. *Shaksp.*

3. Not easily intelligible; abstruse; difficult.
I explain some of the most obscure passages, and those which are most necessary to be understood, and this according to the manner wherein he us'd to express himself. *Dryd.*

4. Not noted; not observable.
He says, that he is an obscure person; one, I suppose, that is in the dark.

To OBSCURE. *v. a.* [obscurare, Latin.]

1. To darken; to make dark.
Sudden the thunder blackens all the skies,
And the winds whistle, and the furies roll
Mountains on mountains, and obscure the pole. *Pope.*

2. To

OBS

2. To make less visible.
They are all couched in a pit hard by Herne's oak, with obscured lights; which at the very instant of Falstaff's and our meeting, they will at once display to the night. *Shaksp.*

What must I hold a candle to my flames?
They in themselves, good sooth, are too, too light.
Why, 'tis an office of discovery, love,
And I should be obscured. *Shaksp. M. of Venice.*

Thinking by this retirement to obscure himself from God,
he infringed the omniscience and essential ubiquity of his maker. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

3. By private content it hath been used in dangerous times to obscure writing, and make it hard to be read by others not acquainted with the intrigue. *Haller.*

There is scarce any duty which has been so obscured by the writings of learned men, as this. *Wake.*

4. To make less glorious, beautiful, or illustrious.
Think't thou, vain spirit, thy glories are the same,
And feest not in obscure thy godlike frame?
I know thee now by thy ungrateful pride,
That shows me what thy faded looks did hide. *Dryden.*

OBSCURELY. *adv.* [from obscure.]

1. Not brightly; not luminously.
2. Out of sight; privately; without notice; not conspicuously.
Such was the rise of this prodigious fire,
Which in mean buildings first obscurely bred,
From thence did soon to open streets aspire. *Dryden.*

There live retir'd,
Content thyself to be obscurely good. *Addison's Cato.*

Let him go, purged by silent wrath,
Meet unexpected daggers in his way,
And in some distant land obscurely die. *Irene.*

3. Not clearly; not plainly.
OBSCURENESS. *n. f.* [obscuritas, Lat. obscuritas, Fr.]

OBSCURITY. *n. f.* [obscuritas, Lat. obscuritas, Fr.]

1. Darknes; want of light.
Lo! a day of darkness and obscurity, tribulation and anguish, upon the earth. *Esther xi. 8.*

Should Cynthia quit thee, Venus, and each star,
It would not form one thought dark as mine are:
I could lend them obscurity now, and lay,
Out of myself there should be no more day. *Donne.*

2. Unnoticed state; privacy.
You are not for obscurity design'd,
But, like the sun, must cheer all human kind. *Dryd.*

3. Darknes of meaning.
Not to mention that obscurity that attends prophetic raptures, there are divers things knowable by the bare light of nature, which yet are so uneasy to be satisfactorily understood by our imperfect intellects, that let them be delivered in the clearest expressions, the notions themselves will yet appear obscure. *Boyle on Colours.*

That this part of sacred scripture had difficulties in it: many causes of obscurity did readily occur to me. *Locke.*

What lies beyond our positive idea towards infinity, lies in obscurity, and has the indeterminate confusion of a negative idea, wherein I know I do not comprehend all I would, it being too large for a finite capacity. *Locke.*

OBSCURATION. *n. f.* [obscuratio, from obscure, Lat.] Intracacy; supplication.

That these were comprehended under the sacra, is manifest from the old form of obscuration.

OBSEQUIES. *n. f.* [obseques, French.] I know not whether this word be not anciently mistaken for exequies, exequies, Latin: this word, however, is apparently derived from obsequium.

1. Funeral rites; funeral solemnities.

There was Dorlaus valiantly requiring his friends help, in a great battle deprived of life, his obsequies being not more solemnized by the tears of his partakers, than the blood of his enemies. *Sidney, b. ii.*

Fair Juliet, that with angels dost remain,
Accept this latest favour at my hand;
That living honour'd thee, and being dead,
With funeral obsequies adorn thy tomb. *Shaksp.*

These tears are my sweet Rutland's obsequies.
I spare the widows tears, their woful cries,
And howling at their husbands obsequies;
How Thebes at these funerals did assist,
And with what gifts the mourning dames dismiss. *Dryden.*

His body shall be royally interr'd,
Be the chief mourner at his obsequies.

Alas! poor Poll, my Indian talker dies,
Go birds and celebrate his obsequies.

2. It is found in the singular, perhaps more properly.
Or tune a song of victory to me,
Or to thyself, sing thine own obsequy.

Him I'll solemnly attend,
With silent obsequy and funeral train,
Home to his father's house. *Milton's Agonistes.*

OBS

OBSEQUIOUS. *adj.* [from obsequium, Latin.]

1. Obedient; compliant; not resisting.
Adore not so the rising son, that you forget the father, who raised you to this height; nor be you so obsequious to the father, that you give just cause to the son to suspect that you neglect him. *Bacon's Advice to Villiers.*

At his command th' up-rooted hills retir'd
Each to his place; they heard his voice, and went
Obsequious. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

I follow'd her; she what was honour knew,
And with obsequious majesty, approv'd
My pleaded reason. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. viii.*

A genial cherishing heat acts so upon the fit and obsequious matter, as to organize and fashion it according to the exigencies of its own nature. *Boyle.*

His servants weeping,
Obsequious to his orders, bear him hither. *Add. Cato.*

The vote of an assembly, which we cannot reconcile to public good, has been conceived in a private brain, afterwards supported by an obsequious party. *Swift.*

2. In Shakespeare it seems to signify, funeral; such as the rites of funerals require.

Your father lost a father;
That father his; and the survivor bound
In filial obligation, for some term, *Shaksp. Hamlet.*

To do obsequious service. *[from obsequious.]*

1. Obedient; with compliance.
They rise, and with respectful awe,
At the word giv'n, obsequiously withdraw. *Dryden.*

We cannot reasonably expect, that any one should readily and obsequiously quit his own opinion, and embrace ours with a blind resignation. *Locke.*

2. In Shakespeare it signifies, with funeral rites; with reverence for the dead.

I a while obsequiously lament
The untimely fall of virtuous Lancaster. *Shaksp. R. III.*

OBSEQUIOUSNESS. *n. f.* [from obsequious.] Obedience; compliance.

They apply themselves both to his interest and humour, with all the arts of flattery and obsequiousness, the surest and the readiest ways to advance a man. *South's Sermons.*

OBSEQUIOUSLY. *adv.* [from obsequious, Lat.] Remarkable; eminent; such as may deserve notice.

These proprieties affixed unto bodies from considerations deduced from east, west, or those observable points of the sphere, will not be justified from such foundations. *Brown.*

I took a just account of every observable circumstance of the earth, stone, metal, or other matter, from the surface quite down to the bottom of the pit, and entered it carefully into a journal. *Woodward's Nat. Hist.*

The great and more observable occasions of exercising our courage, occur but seldom. *Rogers.*

OBSEQUIOUSLY. *adv.* [from obsequious.] In a manner worthy of note.

It is prodigious to have thunder in a clear sky, as is obsequiously recorded in some histories. *Brown's Vulgar Err.*

OBSEQUIOUSNESS. *n. f.* [obsequiositas, Fr. obsequiosus, Latin.]

1. Respect; ceremonial reverence.
In the wood, a league without the town,
Where I did meet thee once with Helena,
To do observance on the morn of May. *Shakespeare.*

Arcite left his bed, resolv'd to pay
Observance to the month of merry May. *Dryden.*

2. Religious rite.
Some represent to themselves the whole of religion as consisting in a few easy observances, and never lay the least restraint on the business or diversions of this life. *Rogers.*

3. Attentive practice.
Use all th' observance of civility,
Like one well studied in a sad offence
To please his grandam. *Shaksp. M. of Venice.*

If the divine laws were proposed to our observance, with no other motive than the advantages attending it, they would be little more than an advice. *Rogers, Sermon 1.*

4. Rule of practice.
There are other strict observances;
As, not to see a woman. *Shaksp. I. Labour's Lost.*

5. Careful obedience.
We must attend our creator in all those ordinances which he has prescribed to the observance of his church. *Rogers.*

6. Observation; attention.
There can be no observation or experience of greater certainty, as to the increase of mankind, than the strict and vigilant observance of the calculations and registers of the bills of births and deaths. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*

7. Obedient regard.
Having had such experience of his fidelity and observance abroad, he found himself engaged in honour to support him. *Wotton.*

18 L